

NOTE: These are basic Bible studies intended to help our teachers personally grasp the "big picture" of our VBS theme. Feel free to use anything here in connecting with your students. If you have any follow-up questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Jason.

Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch **the lintel** and **the two doorposts** with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of **the door** of his house until the morning. For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over **the**

door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you." (Exo 12:21-23) The children of Israel had been slaves in Egypt for four hundred years, but God sent Moses to tell the stubborn Pharaoh, "Let my people go" (Exo 5:1). After nine terrible plagues (Exo 7-10), Pharoah's heart was still hard, so God promised one more—the worst plague of all—"About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt, and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die" (11:4-5).

But in Exodus 12, God provided a way for anyone who believed his warning to be saved from this terrible plague. Each household was to sacrifice a lamb. Its blood was to be smeared around the door of the house. On the inside, the people were to be ready to leave because God was setting them free from their slavery (12:11). It was going to be a terrible night outside for all who ignored God or were stubborn against him. God was going to show that "all the gods of Egypt" were no match for him (12:12). But the blood on those doorposts would be a sign that the people on the inside of those houses believed in the one true God. "And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt" (12:13). For the rest of their lives, once a year, every year, the children of Israel were to remember "the LORD's Passover" (12:27).

The "trust and obey" connection:

- Moses feared and trusted God enough to believe his warnings; he encouraged many others to obey God so that they also could be saved (Heb 11:28).
- Jesus is our Passover Lamb (1 Cor 5:7) who was sacrificed for our sins (John 1:29).
- As we learn from and follow Jesus, we won't always be like the world (1 John 2:15-16), but the world is passing away (2:17). In Jesus, we're safe and secure (Rom 8:1).